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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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7590		02/15/2008		
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		EXAMINER		
		BORISSOV, IGOR N		
		ART UNIT		
		PAPER NUMBER		
		3628		
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		02/15/2008		
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/626,850

Applicant(s)

BATOR ET AL.

Examiner

Igor N. Borissov

Art Unit

3628

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 December 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 and 9-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 and 9-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-8508)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

Amendment received on 12/03/2007 is acknowledged and entered.
Claims 4-8 have been canceled. Claim 14 has been amended. Claims 1-3 and 9-14 are currently pending in the application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-3, 9, 10, and 12-14 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ananda (Letter to a Retail Systems Manager of United States Postal Service on February 21, 1997).

Claims 1, 10 and 14.

Ananda appears to describe a method and system for a vendor to dispense postage over a network to a remote personal computer, wherein StampMaker (a vendor) allows the postal customer to create stamps at the home or office using a personal computer, modem, and printer. A software program with an incomplete header code is installed on the consumer's hard drive, and can only be activated and stamps printed when the user is online.

The Vendor system is embodied as Internet Host site including a link to the Internet, a server, and a relational database, wherein the system is configured to collect at least the following information:

. Profile of the users including name, address, credit card information, phone numbers and any other information deemed necessary;

- . Accounting information by user, including prepaid postage amount and postage amount used;
- . Details of the postage printed by user, including value of the postage, type of postage, date sent, recipient, etc.

The system is also configured to:

- . define the Postal Rates or the kind of billing system to use including Prepaid postage system or monthly billing by credit card;
- . enable a remote user to print a postage stamp on to their local printers under the supervision of the server.

Furthermore, Ananda teaches that the server application ensures that only those users who are registered with the Vendor are able to print the stamps using their PC. In order for the user to print a stamp at a PC, the user will first have to register with the Vendor providing among other things, their charge card information and a password. The user will then be identified internally with a unique user Id. In use, every time the user wants to print a stamp, the client software running on the user system will verify with the server software running on the Vendor system, that the user is an authorized user and also verify that there is enough prepaid postage available for the user to print the stamps (sections: Product Concept Narrative and Vendor Infrastructure Concept Narrative; pages 3 and 4).

Claims 2, 3, 9, 12, 13, see reasoning applied to claims 1, 10 and 14.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ananda.

Claim 11, Ananda teaches all the limitations of claim 11, except specifically teaching that the evidence of postage payment includes a transaction number.

However, it is old and well known to provide a customer with a transaction number during a transaction.

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Ananda to include that the evidence of postage payment includes a transaction number, because it would advantageously allow facilitating tracking of relevant data during a dispute over the transaction.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-3 and 9-14 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Igor Borissov whose telephone number is 571-272-6801. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John W. Hayes can be reached on 571-272-6708. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Igor N. Borissov/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3628
02/12/2008